

4.W. Bullock – A.1 & A.2 Ethics

I. ARTICLE 1 – PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF JOB

The primary responsibility of the police service and the individual officer is the protection of the people of the United States through the upholding of their laws; chief among these is the Constitution of the United States and its Amendments. The law enforcement officer always represents the whole of the community and its legally expressed will and is never the arm of any political party or clique.

II. ARTICLE 2 – LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY

The first duty of a law enforcement officer, as upholder of the law, is to know its bounds upon him in enforcing it. Because he represents the legal will of the community, be it local, state or Federal, he must be aware of the limitations and proscriptions which the people, through law, have placed upon him. He must recognize the genius of the American system of government which gives to no man, groups of men or institutions absolute power; and he must insure that he, as a prime defender of that system, does not pervert its character.

III. ARTICLE 3 – DUTY TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE LAW AND WITH RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF AND OTHER PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The law enforcement officer shall assiduously apply himself to the study of the principles of the laws which he is sworn to uphold. He will make certain of his responsibilities in the particulars of their enforcement, seeking aid from his superiors in matters of technicality of principle when these are not clear to him; he will make special effort to fully understand his relationship to other public officials, particularly on matters of jurisdiction, both geographically and substantively.

IV. ARTICLE 4 – UTILIZATION OF PROPER MEANS TO GAIN PROPER ENDS

The law enforcement officer shall be mindful of his responsibility to pay strict heed to the selection of means in discharging the duties of his office. Violations of the law or disregard for public safety and property on the part of the officer are intrinsically wrong; they are self-defeating in that they instill in the public mind a like disposition. The employment of illegal means, no matter how worthy the end, is certain to encourage disrespect for the law and its officers. If the law is to be honored, it must first be honored by those who enforce it.

V. ARTICLE 5 – COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR AUTHORIZED DUTIES

The law enforcement officer shall cooperate fully with other public officials in the discharge of authorized duties regardless of party affiliation or personal prejudice. He shall be meticulous, however, in assuring himself of the propriety,

under the law, of such actions and shall guard against the use of his office or person, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in any improper or illegal action. In any situation open to question, he shall seek authority from his superior officer, giving him a full report of the proposed service or action.

VI. ARTICLE 6 – PRIVATE CONDUCT

The law enforcement officer shall be mindful of his special identification by the public as an upholder of the law. Laxity of conduct or manner in private life, expressing either disrespect for the law or seeking to gain special privilege, cannot but reflect upon the police officer and the police service. The community and the service require that the law enforcement officer lead the life of a decent and honorable man. Following the career of a policeman gives no man special perquisites. It does give the satisfaction and pride of following and furthering the unbroken tradition of safeguarding the American Republic. The officer who reflects upon this tradition will not degrade it. Rather, he will so conduct his private life that the public will regard him as an example of stability, fidelity and morality.

VII. ARTICLE 7 – CONDUCT TOWARDS THE PUBLIC

The law enforcement officer, mindful of his responsibility to the whole community, shall deal with individuals of the community in manner calculated to instill respect for its laws and its police service. The law enforcement officer shall conduct his official life in a manner such as will inspire confidence and trust. Thus, he will be neither overbearing nor subservient, as no individual citizen has an obligation to stand in awe of him or his right to command him. The officer will give service where he can and require compliance with the law. He will do neither from personal preference or prejudice but rather as a duly appointed officer of the law discharging his sworn obligation.

VIII. ARTICLE 8 – CONDUCT IN ARRESTING AND DEALING WITH LAW VIOLATORS

The law enforcement officer shall use his powers of arrest strictly in accordance with the law and with due regard to the rights of the citizens concerned. His office gives him no right to neither persecute the violator nor mete out punishment of the offense. He shall, at all times, have a clear appreciation of his responsibilities and limitation regarding detention of the violator; he shall conduct himself in such a manner as will minimize the possibility of having the service of the people and the equitable upholding of their laws, whether in the handling of law violators or in dealing with the law-abiding.

IX. ARTICLE 9 – GIFTS AND FAVORS

The law enforcement officer, representing government, bears the heavy responsibility of maintaining in his own conduct, the honor and integrity of all government institutions. He shall, therefore guard against placing himself in a position in which any person can expect special consideration or in which the

public can reasonably assume that special consideration is being given. Thus, he should be firm in refusing gifts, favors or gratuities, large or small, which can, in the public's mind, be interpreted as capable of influencing his judgment in the discharge of his duties.

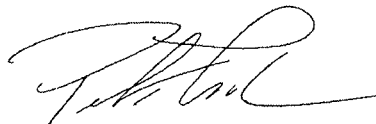
X. ARTICLE 10 – PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE

The law enforcement officer shall be concerned equally in the prosecution of the wrongdoer and the defense of the innocent. He shall ascertain what constitutes evidence and shall present such evidence impartially and without malice. In so doing, he will ignore social, political and all other distinction among the persons involved, strengthening the tradition of the reliability and integrity of an officer's work.

The law enforcement officer shall take special pains to increase his perception and skill of observation, mindful that in many situations his is the sole impartial testimony to the facts of the case.

XI. ARTICLE 11 – ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROFESSION

The law enforcement officer shall regard the discharge of his duties as a public trust and recognize his responsibility as a public servant. By diligent study and sincere attention to self improvement, he shall strive to make the best possible application of science to the solution of crime and in the field of human relationships; he shall strive for effective leadership and public influence in matters affecting public safety. He shall appreciate the importance and responsibility of his office and hold police work to be an honorable profession rendering valuable service to his community and his country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter White', with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter White
Sheriff
Vance County

I. CODE OF ETHICS

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to protect lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional Rights of all men to "Liberty", "Equality," and "Justice".

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and professional life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my Office. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear of favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession...law enforcement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter White', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peter White
Sheriff
Vance County